

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are well aware there is a shortage in this country of professional persons proficient in the languages of other countries and with special knowledge of their social and economic conditions. This shortage has been of increasing concern to those agencies of government which depend on a continuing adequate supply of such specialists to carry out effectively their immediate and long-term assignments.

Our ability to carry forward our international security programs will depend in large measure upon the availability of trained specialists for work in critical areas of the world. Such specialists are no less vital to the national interest than physical scientists.

Primary responsibility for the maintenance of an adequate supply of trained persons, however, must continue to rest upon the various established educational institutions and foundations. Many of our private foundations, learned societies, and educational institutions have been concerned with this problem for some time. It is due largely to their foresight that a number of institutions now offer specialized training in the languages and problems of foreign areas.

Experience has demonstrated, however, that the effective conduct of international security programs requires some provision within the Government for training area and language specialists. Authority presently vested in the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State has proved of considerable value in maintaining a

supply of such personnel. In addition, the educational programs conducted under the Fulbright Act and the Smith-Mundt Act have contributed significantly.

In view of the extensive concern of the Department of State, I request that you take the leadership in establishing a committee to coordinate agency efforts in this field. Initially, the committee should assess the short-term requirements of all Federal agencies for language and area specialists, develop plans for meeting these needs without impairing college and university staffs that will be essential if we are to meet the long-range needs for these specialists, and work out agreements among the agencies to conform to such plans. To the extent that these requirements cannot be met from the existing supply of specialists, you may wish to develop proposals for the better utilization of present government personnel who already have some of the required experience and education and who might be used to greater advantage after a brief period of specialized training.

In addition, you should (1) estimate the long-run requirements of Federal agencies in relation to aggregate needs for such personnel, (2) examine the extent to which the numbers of people trained and the areas of the world covered in existing training centers are adequate to meet these requirements, (3) consider the extent to which the Federal Government should foster any necessary expansion of such training, and (4) examine existing authorities available for this purpose and develop any additional proposals required to meet the needs.

I would appreciate your submitting your report on this matter through the Director of the Bureau of the Budget so that the recommendations may be reviewed in the light of related proposals and programs. It will, of course, be necessary that any plans in this field be coordinated with the general manpower policies of the Government.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Defense Mobilization, the Chairman of the National Security Resources Board, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Economic Cooperation Administrator, the Federal Security Administrator, the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and the Librarian of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable

The Secretary of State